SENATE
WATCH

A summary of today's Senate actions;
published daily when the Senate is in session.

6/28/05

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

SB 513 (Hammerstrom)

SB 513 would make technical changes to school election consolidation laws.

- EMERSON 1 (1 amend) was defeated [RC 284: 16 yes, 20 no]. This would strike the section, added by the House, concerning digital signatures.
- EMERSON 2 (2 amends) was withdrawn.
- Hammerstrom 3 (1 amend) was adopted [no RC].
- The Senate concurred with the House changes to SB 513, as amended by the Senate [RC 285: 21 yes, 15 no]. Immediate Effect was not given to the bill [no RC].

FINAL PASSAGE

SB 564 (BARCIA)

SB 564 would name the portion of M-46 between M-24 in Tuscola County and M-53 in Sanilac County the "AMVETS Memorial Scenic Drive".

- *Committee 1 (S-1) was adopted. (6/23)*
- *SB 564 was moved to 3rd Reading.*
- SB 564 passed with IE [RC 282: 36 yes, 0 no]. (6/28)

HB 4607 (Stakoe)

HB 4607 would allow a school superintendent, if appropriate, to request that a sign be erected in the school zone indicating that a school was in session year-round. The sign would have to be posted on the same signpost as the school zone sign and immediately below the school zone sign. The sign would have to read "year-round school".

- *Committee 1 (S-1) was adopted. (6/23)*
- *HB 4607 was moved to 3rd Reading.*
- HB 4607 passed with IE [RC 283: 36 yes, 0 no]. (6/28)

THIRD READING

SB 373 (McManus)
HB 4465 (Steil)
SB 620 (Patterson)

SB 373 and HB 4465 would prohibit a person from: 1) Engaging in computer-assisted shooting. 2) Providing or operating, with or without remuneration, facilities for computer-assisted shooting. 3) Providing or offering to provide, with or without remuneration, equipment specially adapted for computer-assisted shooting.

SB 373:
- Committee 1 (S-3) was adopted.
- Patterson 1A (3 amends) was adopted.
- SB 373 was moved to 3rd Reading.

HB 4465:
- Committee 1 (S-1) was adopted.
- Patterson 1A (3 amends) was adopted.
- HB 4465 was moved to 3rd Reading.

SB 620 would prescribe criminal penalties for computer-assisted shooting (which SB 373 and HB 4465 would prohibit). A person who committed a violation would be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for up to 93 days and/or a maximum fine of $500.

- Committee 1 (S-1) was adopted.
- SB 620 was moved to 3rd Reading.

SB 503 (Hammerstrom)

SB 503 allow an individual to designate on his or her annual return that a contribution of $5 or more of his or her refund be credited to the Children's Trust Fund. Currently, an individual could designate on his or her annual return that a contribution of $2 or more of his or her refund be credited to the Fund until the State Treasurer certified that the assets in the Fund exceeded $20 million (which occurred in 2000).

- SB 503 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.

SB 553 (Allen)

SB 553 would allow confidential information in the possession of the Unemployment Insurance Agency to be made available to the U.S. Census Bureau. The Local Employment Dynamics (LED) program is a partnership between the Census Bureau and state governments to improve the quality, timeliness and usefulness of labor market information. By sharing state wage record data with the Census Bureau and participating in the LED program, Michigan would be able to access employment patterns for specific demographic groups a local level.

- Committee 1 (S-1) was adopted.
- SB 553 was moved to 3rd Reading.

SB 578 (Cassis)

SB 578 would provide a technical correction to the General Property Tax Act regarding the poverty exemption. Current law requires someone who seeks a poverty exemption to file Federal and State tax returns with the local

board of review; however, many people within the poverty exemption range do not file such returns. The bill removes the absolute requirement to file the forms, and limits their filing to people who would otherwise be required to file the forms under other laws.

- SB 578 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.

HB 4322 (Jones)

HB 4322 would require a retail seller of ephedrine or pseudoephedrine products to maintain them behind a counter, within a locked case, or where the attendant could monitor them, or use an antitheft device on the products along with constant video surveillance. Also, the bills would provide that a retail seller would have to require photo identification for the purchase of an ephedrine or pseudoephedrine product. Pseudoephedrine derived from over-the-counter medications is an important ingredient in the production of the drug methamphetamine.

- HB 4322 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.

HB 4541 (BYRUM)

HB 4541 would allow members of the general public under certain circumstances to bring alcohol purchased elsewhere into a motorsports entertainment complex for consumption on the complex grounds. The bill would allow drag strips and oval racing tracks without liquor licenses as small as 1,500 seats to allow patrons to bring their own alcoholic beverages as long as the tracks meet certain conditions. Because most motorsports entertainment complexes in the state do not sell alcohol, it has been a longstanding practice for race fans to bring their own alcoholic beverages. Only recently have track owners realized that in permitting this, they are violating a provision of the liquor code that prohibits the consumption of alcoholic beverages on unlicensed premises if the establishment also serves food.

- Committee 1 (1 amend) was adopted.
- HB 4541 was moved to 3rd Reading.

HB 4714 (Pavlov)
HB 4715 (Hansen)
HB 4716 (Farhat)

Non-Native Species Package

House Bills 4714-4716 place greater restrictions on the possession and release of certain nonnative, invasive species of plants and insects. The bills would prohibit an individual from knowingly possessing a prohibited or restricted species, except in certain limited circumstances, and also prohibit the release of a prohibited or restricted aquatic plant or insect species, or a genetically engineered or nonnative aquatic plant into any area where it is not already naturalized, except as authorized under a permit.

Department of Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, Michigan Environmental Council, Michigan United Conservation Clubs, Michigan Manufacturers Association, Heart of the Lakes, Michigan Farm Bureau -- The entire package of bills is necessary to guard against the introduction and infestation of nonnative, invasive aquatic plants and insects in the state. These species can severely damage wildlife habitat and may present a serious threat to the public health of the state.

HB 4714:

- HB 4714 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.

HB 4715:
- HB 4715 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.

HB 4716:
- HB 4716 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.

HB 4821 (Mortimer)

HB 4821 would allow for the establishment of a statewide pharmacists peer review entity. The bill would include in the definition of "review entity" an organization established by a state association of pharmacists that collects and verifies the authenticity of documents and other data on the qualifications, competence, or performance of licensed pharmacists and pharmacies. Review entities perform an important function in the health care system, by reviewing the appropriateness, necessity, and quality of health care rendered and the competence and performance of health care providers with the ultimate goals of saving lives and preventing injuries caused by inappropriate care.

- HB 4821 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

Commission on Natural Resources

- The nominations of Darnell Earley and Franklin Wheatlake were discharged from the Government Operations Committee [no RC].
- The Senate confirmed the appointment of Darnell Earley [RC 280: 36 yes, 0 no].
- The Senate confirmed the appointment of Franklin Wheatlake [RC 281: 36 yes, 0 no].